



**Safe Haven Standards  
August 2014**

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# ASSURED FOOD STANDARDS & AHDB POTATO COUNCIL

## SAFE HAVEN SCHEME

The Safe Haven Scheme is one of the Red Tractor Schemes owned by Assured Food Standards and the standards have been developed to address best practice and scientific evidence on the most effective way to exclude bacterial ring rot and *Dickeya*.

AFS has developed Rules and Procedures for all its schemes and a detailed copy of this document is available from certification bodies licensed to certify to the standards or available on the AFS website: [www.redtractor.org.uk](http://www.redtractor.org.uk)

The summary details relating to certification are briefly set out below for information.

- All non-conformances against the Standards must be put right. Some Standards are marked 'Key Standards' and if the assessor finds that there is a major non-conformance\* against one of the 'Key Standards' it may result in suspension of certification until it is put right. Non-conformances against 'Other Standards' should not result in suspension provided the member corrects them within an agreed timescale. This will normally be within 28 days of the assessment unless told otherwise. The Certification Body will also reserve the right to suspend certification in the case of a large number of such non-conformances or in the event of the same non-conformance being found on successive assessment visits.
- Some points may be marked as 'recommendations'. These are not Standards and they will *not* affect certification. 'Recommendations' are often included to introduce points that will become a Standard in the near future.
- If non-conformances are not rectified satisfactorily, membership and certification will be suspended until the Certification Body has obtained satisfactory evidence that they have been corrected. This may involve a re-assessment for which a fee may be payable. Once a certificate is suspended non-conformances must be rectified within 3 months of the date of suspension otherwise the certificate will be withdrawn and membership will lapse. Certification can only be regained by following the procedure for a new applicant

## SAFE HAVEN STANDARDS

### Introduction

Following a systematic approach will help members to avoid and manage the risks associated with bacterial ring rot and *Dickeya*. Where the term 'production unit' is used below this refers to a business rather than to a physical unit of land. Where a business uses rented land for seed potato production this will be eligible for the Scheme provided all the standards are met.

Random samples of seed and ware production from production units will be collected by the appropriate plant health authority for official testing as part of the annual ring rot surveys performed in accordance with Directive 93/85/EEC. Sampling rates will be at least equivalent to those on non-accredited production units, as laid down by the relevant plant health authority.

The following standards are based on a typical seed potato production process.

## 1. Seed Stocks

- 1.1 Producers must enter all seed potato crops in the seed potato classification scheme of the relevant UK authority and allow details of all these crops to be published in the official seed register.
- 1.2 All seed for seed multiplication must be from classified seed and have originated from the unit itself or must be traceable to another accredited production unit. In the case of first generation Pre Basic production, all seed must have derived in a direct line (i.e. without further clonal selection) from UK Nuclear Stock or other approved initial stock provider (SASA or DARD ring rot tested nuclear stock or SASA or DARD quarantine tested in-vitro plant material) and have been produced by a officially approved minituber producer. Seed produced from true potato seed will also be acceptable.

*[Guidance Note: Applicants should note that provided existing seed stock can be traced back to UK Nuclear Stock or other approved initial stock provider this can be planted but all new input seed must meet the requirements of 1.2.above].*

- 1.3 Full records of the multiplication history of each seed stock grown on the production unit must be maintained for 3 years.
- 1.4 Cutting of seed for seed production is not permitted. **(Key)**

## 2. Ware Stocks

- 2.1 Ware crops grown or handled on a Safe Haven accredited unit do not require to be entered in the seed potato classification scheme, but will otherwise be subject to all the same standards as detailed below for seed production.

## 3. Transport and Storage

- 3.1 Seed tubers must only be stored or transported in boxes or containers that: -
  - Have never been used for potatoes produced outside the accredited production unit; (where boxes are to be sent to a packer or other outside production unit annual written assurance should be obtained that these boxes will not be used for handling any other potatoes before being returned) or
  - Have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before use. Cleaning records must be maintained (see 5.1).

Where transport is to be in bulk or in boxes from outside the accredited unit a record of inspection for each load must be retained. **(Key)**

*[Guidance Note:*

*Disinfectants with proven activity against ring rot bacterium in the presence of other organic material should be used. For full details of the guidelines for cleaning and decontamination of equipment and transport vehicles and of validated disinfectants see Appendix 1]*

- 3.2 It is recommended seed transported from an accredited unit is in non-returnable containers. (Recommendation)

- 3.3 Producers must visually inspect boxes/ bulkers before loading. Any boxes/bulkers not meeting the required standard of cleanliness must not be loaded.
- 3.4 Bulk transport is not recommended, but where it is used, producers should ask the haulage contractor for details of the previous 3 loads carried by the vehicle. These details should be recorded. (Recommendation)
- 3.5 Non-accredited seed or ware potatoes must not be handled, graded or stored on accredited production units **(Key)**
- 3.6 Accredited seed potatoes must not be handled, graded or stored on a non-accredited production unit. **(Key)**

#### **4. Machinery/Equipment Policy**

- 4.1 Contracted machinery/equipment or machinery/equipment shared between producers that has physical contact with the seed or daughter tubers (including harvesters, graders, planters, trailers etc.) and that has been used on any other production unit must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before entry and use on the production unit. (Revised)
- 4.2 Cleaning records must be retained as follows: -
- Name/identification of equipment;
  - Event triggering the need for cleaning/disinfection;
  - Date of cleaning operation(s)
  - Disinfectant used;
  - Name of operative
- 4.3 It is recommended that the producers' own machinery/equipment is cleaned and disinfected. (Recommendation) (New)

#### **5. Contractors Obligations**

- 5.1 Producers must ensure that any contractors undertaking work on the production of crops covered by the Safe Haven Scheme adhere to the scheme protocols. In contracting arrangements on an accredited unit where machinery has physical contact with the seed or daughter tubers, there must be a separate record of each potato operation. (Revised)

*[Guidance Note: To enable members to make their instructions clear, the Red Tractor Safe Haven Contractor's Commitment Document can be used – see Appendix 2]*

#### **6. Use of the logo**

- 6.1 The Safe Haven Certification Scheme Logo must only be used in conjunction with the Scheme membership number on packaging, stationery and trade documentation by a grower who is certified under the Safe Haven Certification Scheme.
- 6.2 Records must be kept of the packing of certified material and if a packing site handles certified seed potatoes from more than one source records must be kept to allow traceability from final pack to supplier.
- 6.3 The scheme logo must always be reproduced in accordance with the guidelines in Appendix 3 of this standard.

## APPENDIX 1 (Revised)

### Guidelines for Cleaning and Decontamination of Equipment and Transport Vehicles

#### Practical Guidance on Hygiene

Guidelines for cleaning and decontamination of potato handling equipment and transport vehicles collecting seed potatoes in bulk for the avoidance of ring rot and Dickeya.

#### Cleaning of the equipment/trailer

Systematic cleaning should allow sufficient time to remove all plant residues and soil which can harbour infections.

- Start at the top of the equipment and work downwards
- Start at the top of the trailer and clean from the inside to the edges
- First remove dust, soil and potatoes using a broom
- Remove adherent dirt and potato debris from the surfaces of the equipment/trailer, preferably using a detergent
- Wash down surfaces, preferably with heated water (steam cleaning is particularly effective) where possible
- Cleaning should be carried out on hard standing and run-off water from the cleaning process should be drained to sewerage and not allowed to contaminate agricultural land

#### Decontamination of the equipment/trailer

Decontamination should take place following the cleaning of the equipment/trailer and after all dirt and potato debris has been removed. All disinfectants have their efficacy against the ring rot or Dickeya pathogen reduced by the presence of soil and other organic material. The removal of all soil and debris prior to disinfection is the most important phase of the cleaning process.

- First remove all water left in pools on the equipment or in the trailer. Rinse off any cleaning detergents since they may also affect disinfectant activity
- Use disinfectants in accordance with the manufacturers' directions. Ensure the correct concentration is used and the materials are exposed for the required contact time.
- Pay particular attention to the use of personal protection, if required.
- Rinse thoroughly after the required contact time, if directions require. Pay particular attention if potatoes for consumption are likely to come into immediate contact.

#### Validated Chemicals with proven activity against ring rot and Dickeya

A number of disinfectants are effective; these include:

- Chlorine-based products with at least 1% active chlorine (e.g. hypochlorite bleaches or chlorine dioxide)
- Chloramides (e.g. Halamid-d)
- Iodine-based products (e.g. Fam-30)
- Peroxide/peroxygen based products (e.g. Menno-Ter-Forte, Dimanin, Neoquat-S, Sanibact, Virocid)
- Organic acids (e.g. Menno-florades, Antec-Farm Fluid)
- Aldehyde-based products (e.g. Ren-cid/Glu-cid, Unifect-G, Agrigerm 2000SL, Horti-Desin, Korsolin, Virakil)

Members should check label restrictions for disinfectants before use.

## APPENDIX 2 (Revised)

### Contractors Commitment Document

RT Member's Name	
RT Membership Number	
Address	
Contractor's Name	
Contractor's Address	
Provide Full Details of Contractor's Service (e.g. ploughing, spraying...)	

**a) Contractor's Commitment**

It is the responsibility of the RT member to make known to the contractor any special conditions or work practices that are necessary as a consequence of the Red Tractor Assurance for Farms standards or associated protocols (i.e. Fresh Produce Crop Specific Protocols).

In the absence of any such information, the contractor will ensure that all contract work will be undertaken to a reasonable standard given the quality of the equipment and materials supplied by the grower.

In consequence we, the contractors, have read and understood the relevant Red Tractor Assurance for Farms standards and associated protocols and we commit ourselves to abide by the Statutory Requirements and Good Agricultural Practice guidelines detailed therein.

**b) Contractor's required documentation evidence**

When undertaking pesticide applications we will supply to the above member documentary evidence of:

- Calibration of pesticide application equipment
- An Emergency Plan for Pesticide Spillage which complies with the requirements of the Red Tractor Assurance for Farms standards and associated protocols
- Pesticide application qualifications for the operators used

**c) Please confirm that *either*:**

**Written instructions have been provided to the contractor by the Red Tractor member (attach a copy) or**

**A verbal briefing of requirements has been given to the contractor by the Red Tractor member**

**Red Tractor member's signature** .....

**Contractor's signature** .....

**Note: A duplicate copy of this document must be provided to the contractor.**

## Contractor's Safe Haven Commitment Matrix

Contractors Services	(a) Contractors compliance covered in the FP assessment	(b) Contractors written commitment to statutory requirements and G.A.P guidelines within RT FP	(c) Written instruction issued by FP Member to contractor	(d) Verbal instruction issued by FP Member to contractor
<b>General Services (to include):</b>				
Cultivations				d)
Drilling/Planting				d)
Harvesting			c)	d)
<b>Nutrient Application (to include):</b>				
Fertiliser application			c)	
FYM application			c)	
Lime application			c)	
<b>Pesticide Application (to include):</b>				
Pesticide Storage				
Transport to Farm		b)	c)	
Application Instructions		b)		
Mixing and Measuring	a)	b)		
Operator Training	a)	b)		
Calibration of Applicator		b)		
Use of PPEs	a)	b)		
Emergency Spillage Plan		b)		
Disposal of Washings		b)		
Empty Pesticide Container Disposal				

Bracketed letters indicate Contractor's requirements as outlined in Contractor's Safe Haven Commitment Document.

**Members must be aware that, in the eyes of the law, contractors operating on member's farms must be treated as if they are employees, i.e. their safety and the results of the contractor's actions are the member's responsibility.**

## APPENDIX 3



### Using the Safe Haven Logo

#### About Safe Haven and the Red Tractor

All Red Tractor businesses are independently inspected to ensure that those standards are upheld throughout the food chain.

With approximately 60% of the seed area grown in Britain now in the scheme, it is important that the plant health benefits are communicated to non-members and customers alike. Raising awareness of the risk of Ring Rot and *Dickeya*, will help protect against them.

The Safe Haven scheme logo can only be used by scheme members and whose product meets the Red Tractor standards. Everybody who uses it must do so in a consistent way that customers recognise. This guide is designed to help us all achieve that consistency. Safe Haven members can use the logo on their packaging, stationery, trade documentation and seed bags.

The Safe Haven logo can be applied to seed bags in either full colour or in black (to minimise the cost). If you require the logo, please request it in the normal way, through the certification body that carries out your audit or from the Safe Haven Scheme Manager: [safehaven@redtractorassurance.org.uk](mailto:safehaven@redtractorassurance.org.uk).

Use of the logo is regulated by Standard 6 of the scheme and would still need to be complied with. This would include ensuring the appropriate scheme membership number is included on the packaging to ensure traceability. The plastic pocket on seed bags can be used for this purpose.

For more information on Standard 6 see [www.potato.org.uk/safehaven](http://www.potato.org.uk/safehaven) and click on the "Safe Haven Brochure"